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Santa Rosa County Emergency Management Earns Accreditation

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management has earned accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, or EMAP. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management was one of 13 programs to recently achieve accreditation and joins nine other accredited emergency management programs in the state of Florida. The EMAP is the only accreditation process that provides emergency management programs the opportunity to be evaluated and recognized for compliance with industry standards, to demonstrate accountability, and to focus attention on areas and issues where resources are needed.

To achieve accreditation, applicants must demonstrate through self-assessment, documentation and peer assessment validation that its program meets industry recognized standards, known as the Emergency Management Standard. The emergency management program uses the accreditation to prove the capabilities of their disaster preparedness and response systems. Accreditation is valid for five years and the program must maintain compliance with EMAP standards and is reassessed to maintain accredited status.

EMAP revolutionizes emergency management programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters based on industry standards. EMAP recognizes the ability of emergency management programs to bring together personnel, resources and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to an emergency, in addition to obtaining the ability to measure those capabilities. The Emergency Management Standard is flexible in design so that programs of differing sizes, populations, risks and resources can use it as a blueprint for improvement and can attain compliance with the standard. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in 16 areas, including: planning; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations, and corrective actions; and communications and warning. This forms the foundation of the nation's emergency preparedness system.

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